(c) how does Government propose to implement this scheme of providing cooked food to its destitute population ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (c) No specific proposal in this regard is presently under consideration.

Projects for development of village roads and National Highways

4072. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister commenced any special projects for the development of village roads and National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the State-wise allotment for these projects; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the allotment for Kerala State ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been launched on 25th December, 2000 to provide connectivity, by way of an All-weather Road, to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas, with a population of 500 persons and above by the end of the Tenth Plan Period (2007). While the State Governments, including Government of Kerala, have been advised that, at this stage, the available funds for the year 2001-2002 may not exceed the last year's allocation, it will be Government's endeavour to provide requisite funds to the States.

The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) connecting four metropolitan cities (the Golden Quadrilateral) and North-South and East-West corridors, involving upgradation of the National Highways to four/six lane standard, has also been commenced. The Golden Quadrilateral component is targeted for completion by December 2003 and North-South and East-West Corridors by December 2007. No State-wise allotment of funds is made as the Project is being executed by the National Highways Authority of India.

Scarcity of drinking water in flood hit areas of Orissa

4073. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of drinking water in the flood affected areas in Orissa;